

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) Vertically joined flooring material comprising floor boards with a ~~polygonal shaped upper surface, which floor boards are provided with edges, a groove, a lower side and a decorative top surface~~ and a groove formed in said edge below said decorative upper surface, whereby the floor boards are intended to be vertically joined by means of separate joining profiles, wherein at least one of said edges edge is provided with at least one groove, which groove is arranged parallel to its respective edge and that the joining profiles are provided with lips arranged in pairs, which lips each extend in the same direction and said joining profile and lips, when inserted into said groove, does not extend beyond said lower side, and said lips are intended to be received by the at least one groove of a respective floor board so that adjacent floor boards with the grooves at the adjacent edges are guided and fixed horizontally by the lips of the joining profile, which lips are connected to each other by a middle section of the joining profile and that the joining profile is provided with a central cheek section which is comprised by a first and a second independently resilient cheek which cheeks are provided with one tongue each whereby the tongues are intended to be received by one groove notch each so that adjacent floor boards are guided in a vertical direction.

2. (Previously Presented) Vertically joined flooring material according to claim 1, wherein the groove of the floor board is on the lower side and is arranged at a distance from the closest edge less than half of the width of a floor board.

3. (Previously Presented) Vertically joined flooring material according to claim 2, wherein the floor boards are provided with a <sup>new</sup> groove at the edges and that the distance between each groove and the closest edge is about the same.

4. (Previously Presented) Vertically joined flooring material according to claim 2,

wherein the part of the floor board located between each edge and its respective groove is thinner than the maximum thickness of the floor board by means of a recess located on the lower side.

5. (Currently Amended) Vertically joined flooring material according to claim 1, wherein the distance between a center of one lip to a center of the second lip of the joining profile is less than the distance between a center of one groove on a first board to a center of a the second groove on an adjacent board ~~placed on each side of and closest to the edge of two adjacent floor boards.~~ 112

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6. (Currently Amended) Joining profile ~~Vertically joined flooring material~~ according to claim 13  $\pm$ , wherein the joining profiles are manufactured in long sections which may be cut into a desired length exceeding the length of a floor board before being cut.

7. (Previously Presented) Vertically joined flooring material according to claim 1, wherein the joining profiles are partially coated with glue or adhesive tape.

8. (Withdrawn) Vertically joined flooring material according to claim 1, wherein a decorative strip is positioned in an intentional gap formed between two floor boards.

9. (Withdrawn) Vertically joined flooring material according to claim 8, wherein the decorative strip is provided with heels on its lower part to interact with corresponding depressions on the joining profile.

10. (Withdrawn) Vertically joined flooring material according to claim 8, wherein the decorative strip is provided with shoulders to rest against the upper edges of the joining profile.

11. (Previously Presented) Vertically joined flooring material according to claim 1, wherein the grooves on the lower side are arranged at a distance from the closest edge less than one quarter of the width of the a floor board.

12. (Currently Amended) Vertically joined flooring material according to claim 1, wherein the top surface of the floor board is flush with the top surface of an adjacent floor board, and the lower sides ~~side~~ of the floor board are ~~is~~ flush with ~~both the lower surface of the adjacent floor board and the joining profile.~~

13. (Currently Amended) Joining profile comprising:  
two upstanding lips extending in the same direction, disposed at opposite ends of and perpendicular to a planar, longitudinally extending middle section having a midpoint, such that the middle section terminates with the upstanding lips;

a central cheek section location substantially at the midpoint of the middle section, said central cheek section comprising first and second independently resilient cheeks, wherein the cheeks extend in the same direction as the lips, and not below the middle section;

each of said first and second resilient cheeks comprising a tongue, extending perpendicular with respect to said respective cheek

wherein the joining profile is formed from a material selected from the group consisting of a thermoplastic, polystyrene, polyvinyl chloride and acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene copolymer.

14. (Previously Presented) Joining profile according to claim 13, wherein said first and second resilient cheeks are separated by a space, said space large enough to permit deflection of one of said first and second resilient cheeks without contacting the other of said first and second resilient cheeks.

15. (Withdrawn) Joining profile according to claim 14, further comprising a decorative strip, disposed between said first and second resilient cheeks.

16. (Withdrawn) A method of joining flooring material, comprising:  
providing a first and a second floor board, the floor boards comprising:

a decorative top surface

machined edges, the edges being below the decorative surface, but not including the decorative surface and provided with a first groove;

a lower side; and

a decorative top surface,

wherein each of the edges are provided with a second groove, arranged parallel to its respective edge;

providing a joining profile, the joining profile comprising:

lips, arranged in pairs, separated by a middle section; and

a central cheek section, comprising first and second independently resilient cheeks, the first and second resilient cheeks each comprising a tongue;

vertically joining the first floor boards with the joining profile, by partially inserting one lip of the joining profile into the second groove of the floor board, while simultaneously deflecting one of the first and second resilient cheeks; and

fully seating the lip into the second groove, while simultaneously allowing the one of the first and second resilient cheeks to return to its non-deflected position.

17. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 16, further comprising:

vertically joining the second floor board with the joining profile, by partially inserting the other lip of the joining profile into the second groove of the second floor board, while simultaneously deflecting the other of the first and second resilient cheeks; and

fully seating the lip into the second groove, while simultaneously allow the other first and second resilient cheeks to return to its non-deflected position.

18. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 17, wherein said fully seating of the second floor board causes the top surface of the first floor board to be flush with the top surface of the second floor board, and the lower side of the both first and second floor boards to be flush with the joining profile.

19. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 16, further comprising inserting a decorative strip between the first and second resilient cheeks.

20. (Previously Presented) Vertically joined flooring material according to claim 1, wherein the upper surface of the floor boards have a shape selected from the group consisting of square, rhombus and rectangle.

21. (Previously Presented) Vertically joined flooring material according to claim 1, wherein the floor boards are partially coated with glue.

22. (New) Joining profile according to claim 13, wherein the material is an extruded thermoplastic material.

23. (New) Joining profile according to claim 13, wherein the thermoplastic material is a polyolefin.

24. (New) Joining profile according to claim 13, wherein the material is an injection molded material.